

28.8 FLEEING TO ELUDE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
(Siren and Lights Activated with High Speed or Reckless Driving)
§ 316.1935(3)(a), Fla. Stat.

To prove the crime of Fleeing to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer, the State must prove the following four elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- 1. (Defendant) was operating a vehicle upon a street or highway in Florida.**
- 2. (Defendant), knowing [he] [she] had been directed to stop by a duly authorized law enforcement officer, willfully fled in a vehicle in an attempt to elude a law enforcement officer.**
- 3. The law enforcement officer was in an authorized law enforcement patrol vehicle with agency jurisdictional markings prominently displayed on the vehicle and with siren and lights activated.**
- 4. During the course of the fleeing or the attempt to elude, (defendant) drove at high speed or in any manner demonstrating a wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.**

§ 316.003, Fla. Stat.

“Street or highway” means the entire width between boundary lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the public for purposes of vehicular traffic.

§ 316.003, Fla. Stat. Some of these terms have their own statutory definitions, which should be given if necessary.

“Vehicle” means every device, in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway[, except personal delivery devices, mobile carriers, and devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks].

Patterson v. State, 512 So. 2d 1109 (Fla. 1st DCA 1987).

“Willfully” means intentionally, knowingly, and purposely.

Lesser Included Offenses

FLEEING TO ELUDE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER —316.1935 (3)(a)			
CATEGORY ONE	CATEGORY TWO	FLA. STAT.	INS. NO.
Fleeing to elude		316.1935(2)	28.7
Fleeing to elude		316.1935(1)	28.6
Reckless Driving (if wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is charged or if there is evidence that the fleeing was in a motor vehicle)		316.192(1)	28.5

CATEGORY ONE	CATEGORY TWO	FLA. STAT.	INS. NO.
	Disobedience to Police or Fire Department Officials*	316.072(3)	28.18

Comments

For an offense that occurred before October 1, 2025, the State was also required to prove the law enforcement patrol vehicle had agency insignia prominently displayed on the vehicle.

*The Second District Court of Appeal requires Disobedience to Police to be given as a lesser when the charging document tracks the Fleeing statute. *See Koch v. State*, 39 So. 3d 464 (Fla. 2d DCA 2010); *Lucas v. State*, 192 So. 3d 1269 (Fla. 2d DCA 2016). The Committee retained Disobedience to Police in the Category Two box, however, because Disobedience to Police requires the police order or direction to be lawful and the crime of Fleeing to Elude LEO does not contain that element. *See State v. Kirer*, 120 So. 3d 60 (Fla. 4th DCA 2013); *Jackson v. State*, 463 So. 2d 372 (Fla. 5th DCA 1985).

This instruction was adopted in 2000 [765 So. 2d 692] and amended in 2008 [976 So. 2d 1081], 2011 [73 So. 3d 136], 2015 [166 So. 3d 161], 2018 [236 So. 3d 244], 2019 [262 So. 3d 59], 2020 [288 So. 3d 518], on October 2, 2020, and on November 13, 2025.